



House News

Georgia House of Representatives - September 2005

Laboring after Labor Day

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Every year we celebrate a national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our employer, this great state. But mostly it seems that Labor Day is becoming more and more about simply getting another long weekend, where families have their last chance to celebrate the summer and travel to the newest vacation hot spot. Like so many other holidays, we usually forget to celebrate the reason for the day off. We enjoy the cookouts, the beautiful weather, and

celebrate the fact that we don't have to work, but is that really all that the founders of the day intended? The original intent of this well loved holiday was to reward our nation's

hard workers by giving them a well deserved day of rest. Each member of this staff deserves a pat on the back for the terrific job that they continue to do on a daily basis.

In a way I'm glad that the Special Session took place last week. We had planned the theme of this newsletter to be about the 'tireless souls' that keep this ship afloat, but now that takes on a special significance for me. It was a great feeling to see the Staff of this House pull together, at the drop of a hat, and get back into Session-mode. While the people of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi are trying to survive the greatest natural disaster this country has ever seen, you put aside your personal plans, helping your fellow Americans and did your part to give back to the people of Georgia, the people who put us here. On a day where your employer is supposed to remember you, you remembered them.



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SEPTEMBER

Paula Golden	5th
Megan Gray	8th
Matthew McElroy	11th
Pat Alexander	14th
Lynn Moore	17th
Madge Owens	19th
Brittanny Anderson	19th
Delane Roberts	22nd
Debbie Redd	23rd
Kay Goodroe	25th
Rebecca Hammock	25th
Michele NeSmith	26th
Ward Lamb	26th
Martha Wigton	28th
Barbara Smith	30th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!



From the Chief-of-Staff

Thanks to everyone that helped make the 2005 Special Session run so smoothly. I know that we didn't give you much preperation time, but I am proud of the way we handled getting it all put together in such a short time.

We are getting in the new computers and equipment and I am excited about the changes that

we are about to go through. The training classes are just around the corner which will help everyone be prepared for the 2006 Session.

I look forward to learning new things and working with each one of you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Wall".



Employee Spotlight!

SUSAN RUTHVEN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

On August 24, a young lady stood in front of a large crowd, took an oath, and was sworn in as a citizen of the United States. She stood proud, honored, and humbled. As the oath was being given, a tear swelled and then fell from her eye. It had been a long road for this woman. After the oath was administered, the officers began to name the birthplaces of those who had just been sworn in. As it came to be her turn, she lowered her head, and another tear streamed down her face. Yet this tear wasn't of joy as the other had been. It was riddled with a nervousness and fear of what people would think, do, or say. She was afraid that the one of the happiest moments in her life would quickly become an uncomfortable place for her to be.

Those that stood next to her, held their heads high, and tears began to fall from their eyes. And these tears were of joy. While the lady hung her head, her name was called and her birthplace. She expected a reaction from the crowd, but not the one that came. Cheers went out from the crowd; the roar from the clapping caused her head to rise. Her worries were unnecessary, because now she's a citizen of this country.

Standing with this young lady was a member of our staff. A Canadian native from Ontario, Susan had held permanent residence in the U.S. for five years before becoming a citizen. Moving to Georgia with her military family and husband, she had demonstrated a commitment to this country. She became a staff member of the House in 1999, and with that has earned such respect from the Members and this legislative community. So much so, that on a day when the House was remembering the citizens of Georgia, her Members and friends remembered her. Honoring her with a Resolution from the floor of the House extending to her the sincere best wishes of everyone for her great success and happiness in the years to come.

No this article isn't about the same young lady. They are two different people, from two different backgrounds. When I spoke with Susan, the first paragraph came from what she felt was one of the happiest days of her life. And that moment wasn't just about her. That's what kind of a person Susan is. She shared that moment, remembered it, and appreciates it even more. Because the young lady from the first paragraph was born and lived in Iraq.

Farewell and Good Luck to a Great Employee and Friend...

As odd as this may sound, the people of Turkmenistan sure are lucky- they're going to enjoy the company of Luisa Angel for the next two years!

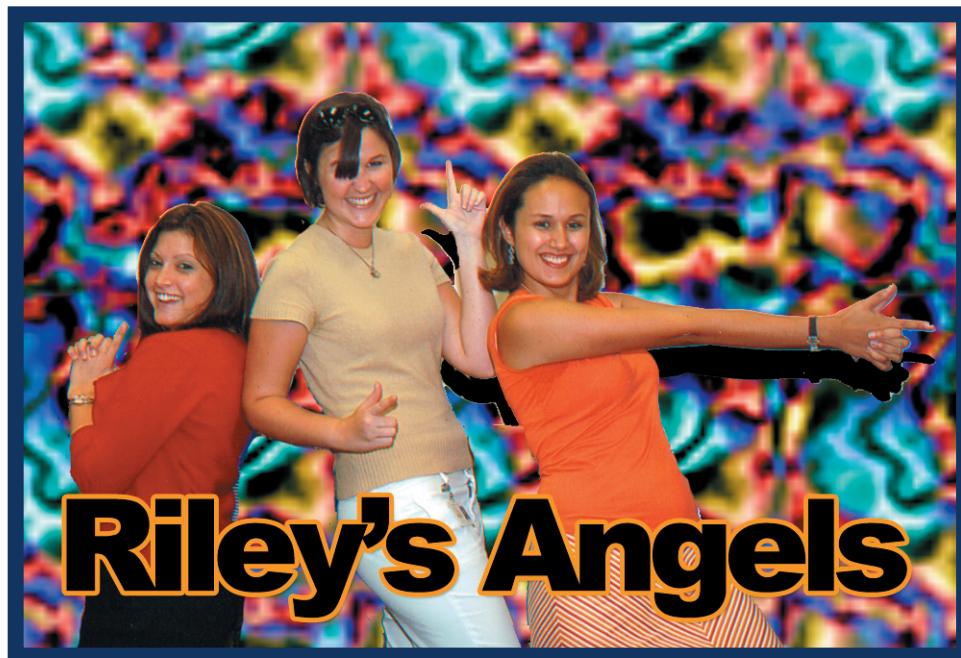
I've had the fortunate opportunity to work along side her since I began working here in January- who knew I'd find such a great friend at the Gold Dome. She has been such an asset to us here in House Communications and has made every day just a little brighter with her warm friendly smiley and great sense of humor. August 31st was indeed a very sad day for all of us here at the Capitol, for it was the last day we had the privilege of working with her. As most of you know Luisa has made a very noble decision and joined the Peace Corp. She'll be moving to

Turkmenistan at the beginning of October where she will be lending a helping hand to people who are less fortunate than the rest of us. Personally I am extremely proud of the decision that she has made. Not many people are brave enough to move half way around the world for 2 whole years- plus give up simple luxuries that we all depend on like hot water!!

Even though she will be greatly missed- and already is- she will be doing a great service for the people of Turkmenistan by helping them to adopt better community health practices. She's chosen a truly selfless task and I sincerely hope it's a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

- Jeneé Burke

Good friends are hard to find, harder to leave, and impossible to forget.
-Anonymous



Abbey Shockley, Jeneé Burke, and Luisa Angel at Luisa's going away party!

Words of Wisdom...

Elaine Meyers
Majority Secretary

How many times has it been said? "Be good to those you work with, work for, and especially those that work for you." Never has that quote been truer than when you visit the fourth floor of the Capitol. Elaine Meyers has spent almost her entire professional career in legislative government. Beginning with her work in the North Carolina General Assembly, the Lt. Governor, and former Governor Robert Scott from 1962-1979. Then she made the move to Atlanta, Georgia, and became the Secretary for the House Judiciary Committee. Several years later, a future law school graduate came to intern for her committee and they continued to keep up with each other years after he left. In 2002, her former intern, was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, and this past year he became the new Majority Whip. With that, he asked the one whom he once made copies for, to be his ultimate supporter. However, I don't think he'll be asking her to make his coffee.

- Brent Cranfield



A Fresh Face...

Gail Morgart
Secretary 401 COB

On the front desk of 401 COB you'll find a small green stone with just one word written across the top. That word is "IMAGINE." It's simply a word that encompasses the attitude of its owner.

Gail Morgart is the new secretary on the fourth floor. Born in Virginia, Gail moved to Georgia to attend the Atlanta Christian College. It was there that she met and married her college sweetheart, and they began their service in the church. With a minister as a husband, Gail has decided to devote her life to the service of others.

For the last fifteen years, Gail worked for the Clayton County Board of Education. But due to recent changes in the Board's philosophy, Gail decided that she could better serve through government. With the belief that God has prepared her for this purpose, she truly seems to enjoy meeting people's needs, and really listening to the problems of others.

"It's great to now have a job where I'm not going home with the weight of the world on my shoulders. Now I get to actually do something that has a direct and positive effect on other people," said Gail. The stone on her desk means just that. Imagine how much better our state, nation, and world would be if everyone came to work with the reminder that what we do today could change the world for the better. That what we do makes this world a better place to live, not only for us, but also for our children. It's a lesson that Gail's taught to her children, and I think it's a lesson that should be shared with our entire staff.

- Brent Cranfield

Don't forget!

Computer training will be held the week of October 3rd-7th. These training classes will be very beneficial to us all. We will be learning Microsoft software such as Word, and Access.



- Brent Cranfield

To My Office

I know that this is your newsletter, but I want to take just a moment to use it for myself. This past week the Georgia House of Representatives went into Special Session. The announcement came on the Friday before Labor Day, when everyone was getting ready to enjoy an extended weekend. At the drop of hat, each of us had spent that day getting ready to jump start into session mode. Understaffed and not given much time to prepare, the job got done.

But I want to take this opportunity to thank two people especially. In an office on the sixth floor of the Coverdell Office Building, there are two staffers that never said, "That's not my job." One of them has only been here for a couple of months, and she has taken the bull by the horns. We have given her some the most boring and time consuming projects that we've come up with. She hasn't winced, groaned, or complained, except to say that when she was finished "It could be a little better." So she tweaked it and tweaked it, when it was perfect to begin with.

The other is one of the best writers that I've ever worked with. She continues to amaze me with how she can take something that she doesn't care for,

doesn't have an interest in, and can turn it into something that brings a smile to your face and makes even me interested in the subject. Each and every day, I'm continually surprised at how she steps up and creates the most poignant writing that comes out of this office. She can do this because, even though she might not care about the subject, she does care about the job and how she goes about doing the job.

Last week, these two young ladies put aside their daily tasks and became pages for the week. Neither complained about being asked to do the job of a teenager. Instead they walked to the chamber each morning, made sure that our Members had the information they needed on their desks. In a week where something that had never been done before in Georgia political history, they didn't get to or stop to watch. They simply did the job.

It's not often that we get to or take the time to thank those that we work with. Our office wouldn't and couldn't be the same without their presence. Neither would this House. So if you all will indulge me, "Jenee' and Abbey, Thank You."

- Brent



Erin, Elaine Meyer's granddaughter, shows off her cute and cuddly puppy, Riley. We also have a cute and cuddly Riley in House Communications!

Educate yourself!

With the upcoming IT restructuring there are a couple of things you need to do for the IT staff to make this a simple and fluid transition.

1. Move all of your documents, pictures, anything that you want moved during the transition to your "P" drive. This is a relatively simple operation: First open the MY COMPUTER icon, there you will see something with your name on it. Open that drive, leave that window open, now go to any file that you would like to keep and drag it into the previously opened window. If you have trouble with this at the time of the transition someone can assist you BUT we do hope that you can do this so that our jobs will be easier and more efficient during the transition.
2. Delete any e-mails on yours or your representative's mail box that you don't need. All Spam, private e-mails that you don't want anymore, etc. It is your responsibility to make sure that your Representative's mail box is not full of Spam. If you have not checked your representative's mail box and they have requested that you do so, now is the time to go in and clear out all of the Spam and irrelevant emails that are clogging up the system.
3. Because the transition is going to be so wide spread we are going to ask you to go to all of your favorites and make a hard copy of the address. The address is in the top bar and it should start with an HTTP:// write that down and keep a copy just in case.
4. If you have any programs that your representative has asked you to load please email Patrick at pmayer@legis.state.ga.us with that program name so we can keep a tally of programs that are being used. Please be sure to include your name, your reps name, the level of necessity for that program on your computer.

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We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm

